



*Libny*

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1955



A N N U A L   R E P O R T .

O F   T H E

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H .

AND

S A N I T A R Y   I N S P E C T O R

1955



TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.NAMES OF PARISHESCOUNCILLORS

BAYTON	E. Evans.
BOCKLETON	Miss M.H.Prescott.
EASTHAM	H. J. Spilsbury.
HANLEY	P. Kerby.
KNIGHTON-ON-TEME	J. Batley, Canon A. P. Randle.
KYRE	H. Brookes
LINDRIDGE	Col. E. G. Wallace.
	I. C. Riley.
MAMBLE	B. Davies
PENSAX	J. T. Young.
ROCHFORD	W. G. Maund (Chairman)
STANFORD WITH ORLETON	W. Morris.
STOCKTON	Capt. A. Astley-Jones.
STOKE BLISS	A. Lawrence.
	H. Bentham.
	H. Jones
	G.E.T.H.Maund
	V. Moore (Senr.)
	Dr. J.E.B.Williams.
TENBURY.	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R.W.Markham, B.A., M.B., B.Ch.,D.P.H.

SURVEYOR, SANITARY INSPECTOR,

J. E. Parkinson, M.R. San.I.

WATERWORKS ENGINEER



TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To The Chairman and Members of Tenbury Rural District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1955.

SECTION A.

Area in Acres	31,250
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid 1955	5,310
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1955	1,814.
Rateable Value	£19,294
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£79. 12. 0.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The district comprises fourteen parishes and except for the small market town of Tenbury it is entirely rural in character. Agriculture, including fruit and hop growing, is the chief industry and provides work for the majority of the adult population.

During the Autumn months the population is increased by fruit and hop pickers, mostly women and children, brought into the district and accommodated in special quarters on the farms. This influx now tends to diminish each year as more growers install hop-picking machinery.

There is a large number of small holdings in the Area and the amount of unemployment varies very little.



3.  
VITAL STATISTICS

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>1955</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>1954.</u>
Legitimate	44	32	76	64
Illegitimate	1	-	1	4
<u>TOTAL</u>	45	32	77	68
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.			14.5	12.7
Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.0	15.2
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>				
Legitimate	0	2	2	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 (live & still births)			12.7	14.5
<u>DEATHS.</u>	28	34	62	65
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			11.6	12.2
Death rate for England and Wales			11.7	11.3
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u>				
Puerperal Sepsis			0	0
Other puerperal causes			0	0
<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u>				
Under one year of Age	0	1	1	3
" 4 weeks	0	0		
<u>INFANT RATE OF INFANTS</u>				
Under one year of age :-				
Infants per 1,000 live births			12.9	44.1
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales			24.9	25.5
			<u>TOTAL</u> <u>1955</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>1954</u>
Deaths from Cancer (All ages)			7	13
" " Measles " "			0	0
" " Whooping cough " "			0	0
" " Diarrhoea " "			1	0







<u>REF. NO.</u>	<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	0	2
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	2
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	1
14	Other Malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	5
18	Coronary Disease, Angina	8	7
20	Other heart disease	3	4
21	Other Circulatory Disease	1	2
22	Influenza	1	2
24	Bronchitis	3	2
27	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0
34	All other accidents	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
		28	34

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

In carrying out my duties as Medical Officer of Health for the Area, I have the assistance and co-operation of Mr. J. E. Parkinson who has been Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer of the Area since 1932.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is the responsibility of the Worcester County Council as "Local Health Authority". The ambulance is stationed at Tenbury.



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LABORATORY FACILITIES

The County Council laboratory at Worcester undertakes the examination of producer samples of food, milk and water. The remaining bacteriological and pathological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

HOSPITALS.

The Tenbury Hospital is quite close to the town, and though being in the parish of Burford, Shropshire, it receives cases chiefly from the town and district of Tenbury. It is very well equipped.

For infectious diseases the Worcester Isolation Hospital is chiefly used and Hayley Green Isolation Hospital is also available.

The Blakebrook Hospital at Kidderminster is also available and for maternity cases accommodation is provided in three maternity hospitals.

All hospitals are the responsibility of the Midland Regional Hospital Board.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Dispensary and Sanatorium treatment is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. The nearest hospital dispensaries are Kidderminster General Hospital and Worcester. There are sanatoria at Knightwick and St. Wulstans, Malvern.

The Local Health Authority is responsible for prevention and after-care and the administration is undertaken by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.



VENEREAL DISEASE.

Treatment and supervision is arranged at the nearest hospital centre i.e. Kidderminster General Hospital and Worcester Royal Infirmary.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are four District Nurses in the area who also act as midwives and carry out the duties of Health Visitors. Their work is so apportioned as to cover the entire area.

The administration of these services is the responsibility of the Local Health Authority.

SECTION C.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.WATER.

Samples of the supply to the town of Tenbury have been taken regularly and have proved satisfactory on Analysis. The quantity is variable and at times requires to be augmented from The Elan Aqueduct.

The Council's proposed Water Scheme Part I was approved in principle by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The Scheme was still under consideration by the Council at the end of the year.

It is hoped that the present financial restrictions will not prevent the scheme progressing.





NUMBER OF HOUSES SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC MAINS.

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>NO. OF HOUSES SUPPLIED FROM STANDPIPE TAPS.</u>	<u>NO. OF HOUSES SUPPLIED DIRECT FROM MAINS.</u>
TENBURY	4	676
KNIGHTON ON TEME	Nil	Nil
LINCOLN	Nil	Nil
MAMBLE	Nil	Nil
PENSAX	Nil	Nil
BAYTON	Nil	Nil
STOCKTON	Nil	Nil
STANFORD	Nil	Nil
EASTHAM	Nil	Nil
HABLEY	Nil	Nil
ROCHFORD	Nil	Nil
KYRE	Nil	Nil
STOKE BLISS	Nil	Nil
BOCKLETON	Nil	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A Scheme for the provision of outfall works for the town of Tenbury has not yet been completed and considered by the Council.

Further survey work has been carried out but little real progress appears to have been made and the Consulting Engineer should be pressed to produce the Scheme at an early date.

The only other sewerage and sewage disposal systems in the rural district under the direct control of the Council are those in connection with the widely separated groups of Council houses.





RIVERS AND STREAMS

The only serious pollution known to be occurring is that of the River Teme and Kyre Brook at Tenbury which receive untreated sewage from the town.

SCHOOLS.

There is little change in sanitary conditions. A scheme is in course of preparation to increase the size of the school and to provide Sanitary accommodation and drainage.

A much needed improvement by the provision of proper sanitary accommodation at Eastham School has not been undertaken because of the lack of Water supply. A start has been made by the Council with a scheme to provide a supply of water to Eastham School and houses in the area.

SECTION D.HOUSING

Two new Council houses at Rochford were completed during the year.

Council houses in course of erection at the end of the year were as follows :-

8 Flats at Pembroke Avenue, Tenbury.

8 houses at Eardiston, Lindridge.

24 houses at Wheeler Orchard, Tenbury. Stage I. Four private enterprise houses were erected during the year.



SECTION E.INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1 . Milk Supply.

2. Meat and other Foods.

(See report of Sanitary Inspector).

No outbreak of food poisoning occurred during the year.

SECTION F.PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASESNotifications.

During the year I received Notifications of the following cases :-

	<u>CASES</u>	<u>ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.</u>	<u>DEATHS.</u>
Scarlet Fever	4	NIL	NIL
Whooping Cough	3	NIL	NIL
Measles	291	NIL	NIL
Pneumonia	1	NIL	NIL

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The importance of immunisation against diphtheria in infancy and the need for a reinforcing dose on reaching school age has been, and continues to be explained to parents. Immunisation is carried out at each session in the Welfare Centre and during my visits to Schools.

Number of children under 5 who received Primary Courses	-	56
" " " over 5 " " " "	-	10
" " " who received reinforcing doses	-	60



TUBERCULOSIS.

Three cases were notified during the year. Of these, one case was found, within the year, to have been wrongly diagnosed and one case originally notified elsewhere in 1952 was a transfer into the district .

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1955.

<u>Age Period</u>	<u>New Cases</u>		<u>Deaths.</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>
0.	0 .....	0	0 .....	0.
1.	0 .....	0	0 .....	0.
5.	0 .....	0	0 .....	0.
10.	0 .....	0	0 .....	0.
15.	0 .....	0	0 .....	0.
25.	1 .....	0	0 .....	0.
35	0 .....	0	0 .....	0.
45	0 .....	0	0 .....	0.
55	0 .....	0	0 .....	0.
65	0 .....	0	0 .....	0.
<hr/>				
	1 .....	0	0 .....	0.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

There were in the register at the end of the year the following cases of Tuberculosis :-

Pulmonary  
M.     F.  
 15     10

Non-Pulmonary  
M.     F.  
 5        6







CONCLUSION

The most urgent problems before the Council are the provision of a safe piped supply of water in the rural parishes of the district and the installing of suitable sewage outfall works for the town of Tenbury.

I wish to thank the Chairman, members of the Council and the Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. MARKHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.



REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR  
SURVEYOR AND WATERWORKS ENGINEER

To The Chairman and Members of Tenbury Rural District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

Water Supplies (Generally).

Apart from the town of Tenbury there is still no public or properly organised system of piped water supply and the greater part of the population of Tenbury Rural District is dependent upon private wells, small springs and a number of small private piped supplies.

The largest of the small private piped supplies serves the Village of Bayton. The improvements obtained in the quality of the Bayton supply in 1954, although temporary measures carried out expediently because of serious contamination, were sustained during 1955. Although the former high degree of risk has been greatly reduced, I am of the opinion that the quality may vary and cannot regard it at all times altogether safe.

As to well-water supplies in the district, it may be said that the majority are to a greater or lesser degree contaminated and of the most of the remainder I would not be sure that good samples could be obtained at all times.

Apart from the general bad quality of the well-water of the district, most of them are hard to very hard and with high temporary-hardness figures. Although it is being done, it does appear very questionable whether such waters are worth the trouble and cost of harnessing to expensive works of improvement and modern conveniences.



I would add that it is my experience that attempts to cleanse old contaminated shallow wells is seldom a really convincing or successful operation.

New wells and boring for water in worthwhile quality and quantity in this district is also very speculative.

#### TENBURY WATER SUPPLY.

The town of Tenbury is supplied from the Council's mains. The undertaking has been described fully in previous annual reports and there has been no important change during the year under review.

With a view to improving supplies in the high level area of Oldwood, a borehole was sunk at Green Lane. This bore at first gave a yield of 2,000 gallons per hour but soon fell away to a steady 400 per hour.

Estimates for a 9,600 gallon water tower for Oldwood were obtained but by the end of the year a scheme had not been carried out.

A scheme for boosting water to Kyrewood, another high level area, was devised. Estimates for the proposal were obtained but it was not proceeded with.

Towards the end of the year a 4" link main some 500 yards in length was laid between Bromyard Road and Oldwood Road. The route of the main was through Wheeler Orchard, the site for proposed 42 Council houses of which 24 are in course of erection.

#### WATER SUPPLIES - COUNCIL HOUSES.

Considerable difficulty was experienced with the borehole which supplies the Council houses at Mamble. Silting of the borehole and oxide deposits choked the submersible pump impellers.





Tenders were invited for boring on a proposed Council housing site near Church Farm, Stoke Bliss, but the proposal was abandoned in favour of a site close to existing Council houses near Kyre School where there is already a supply of water.

#### EASTHAM SCHOOL AND HIGHWOOD.

Early in the year steps were taken with a view to providing a piped supply of water to Eastham School and a few houses in the Highwood Area.

#### STOKE BLISS AND KYRE SCHOOL.

A Scheme for a piped water supply to this school was approved. It was proposed by the County Architect that a pipeline be taken from the main supplying the Council's houses at Kyre.

#### WATER SAMPLES

56 samples of water were taken for examination during the year, and in cases where defective qualities were found appropriate action was taken.

#### TENBURY TOWN WATER - Analyses.

Copies of two samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year :-

Date of Report 9.4.55

Probable Coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C, Nil per 100 ml.

" faecal coli ..... Nil per 100 ml.

Remarks:- Fit for drinking.

R.J.Henderson M.B., Ch., B.





Date of Report 27.10.55

Probable Coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C. Nil per 100 ml.

" faecal coli ..... Nil per 100 ml.

Remarks :- Fit for drinking.

R. J. Henderson, M.B., Ch. B.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There is still a considerable number of Pail-closets in the town of Tenbury which are collected for disposal by the Council's refuse collection staff. It is fortunate that it has been possible to continue to find labour for this kind of work.

Consideration has been given to the need for the conversion to the water-carriage system but immediate or early action is difficult if not impossible.

The only public sewerage system in the district is the one serving the town of Tenbury and this still lacks treatment and disposal plant. A Scheme for providing treatment and disposal plant is being prepared by a firm of Consulting Civil Engineers.

### HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

Collections of house refuse are made weekly in the town of Tenbury and once every three weeks in the more rural parishes. Disposal is by tipping into an old worked out gravel quarry at Kyrewood about one mile out of the town.

Some inconvenience is experienced by having only one tipping site but such sites in this district of rich agricultural land must, I think, continue to be difficult to find.



RODENT CONTROL .

During the year the Council were without the services of a full time Rodent Operator and as a result work under this heading was very limited. The services of a local pensioner with some experience were obtained on occasions to deal with urgent cases.

HOUSING.

During the year 2 new Council houses were completed in the parish of Rochford.

Council houses in course of erection at the end of the year are as follows :-

Pembroke Avenue, Tenbury (Flats) .....	8
Cutmill Bridge, Lindridge .....	8
Bromyard Road - Oldwood Road Scheme (Stage I) .....	24

Houses Erected During the Year.

By Local Authority .....	2
By County Council .....	Nil
By Other Bodies or Persons .....	5

Inspection of Dwelling Houses

(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act or Housing Acts) ...	...	128
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	139
2 (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under One above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. ...	...	117
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	154





- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 31
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. 86

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... .. 11

3. Action under Statutory Powers

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... .. NIL
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
- by owners ... .. NIL
- by local authority in default of owners ... .. NIL

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. NIL
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
- by owners ... .. NIL
- by local authority in default of owners ... .. NIL

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. NIL
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. ... NIL
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings accepted ... .. NIL





D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in  
respect of which Closing Orders were made ... .. NIL

Closing Orders under L.G.(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 NIL

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in  
respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the  
tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. NIL

4. Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV) - Overcrowding

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of this year	}	Not known
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein ... ..		
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..		
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year		NIL
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		NIL
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...		NIL
	(iii)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved ... ..		NIL

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Little change can be reported in the general standard of housing accommodation in small dwellings as the restricting factors of controlled rents and the high cost of repairs still exist.

The provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 have produced no applications either from landlords or tenants regarding increases of rent.

During the year the Council considered their proposals for slum clearance as required by Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Based on former housing surveys and on the standard of fitness then operating, it was considered that some 137 houses could be dealt with under Section II or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.



IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The time taken up by this work can sometimes be considerable and out of proportion to the result or the number of dwellings improved. However, having regard to the not-easy position in the provision of new housing accommodation and the difficulties already mentioned regarding controlled rents and cost of repairs, it is thought to be worthwhile.

Since local authorities were allowed to administer the Improvement Grant work entirely, the time taken to approve applications has been much reduced.

No. of Applications received during the year	...	...	...	...	13
No. of Applications refused	...	...	...	...	1
Work in hand or in progress at end of year	...	...	...	...	6
Application not pursued but work carried out	...	...	...	...	1
Abandoned	...	...	...	...	2
Certificates of Completion issued during the year	...	...	...	...	3

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1947.

During the year 43 Applications were dealt with.

Applications approved	...	...	...	...	42
Applications refused	...	...	...	...	1

Eighteen applications were in respect of proposed new housing, seven in respect of proposed alterations and improvements to houses and eighteen related to various proposals other than housing.



BUILDING BYELAWS.

Applications submitted and dealt with	...	...	...	...	59
Applications approved - Housing matters	...	...	...	...	32
" Refused - " "	...	...	...	...	1
" approved - Other than housing	...	...	...	...	26

SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Ice Cream.

There are no manufacturers of Ice-cream in the district. Pre-packed ice-cream only is sold from the premises registered. Premises and facilities are of a fairly high standard.

One application for Registration was received and approved during the year.

Food Premises.

Visits and inspections of registered and other food premises have been carried out during the year. Generally speaking, all premises are kept clean and appear well managed.

Slaughterhouses.

There are two small slaughter-houses in operation in the district, one being unsatisfactory.

The quality of meat, however, has been consistently good. The small amount of disease found may be explained by the fact that the butchers have a local family trade only and must buy best quality animals to retain the trade.

There are five butchers' shops in the district. Two are supplied from outside the district. One with a very big business has his slaughtering carried out at an Abattoir in Leominster Borough. This butcher was granted permission during the year for the erection of a large modern slaughter-house and it is







expected that it will be completed before the end of 1956.

### Meat Inspection.

No. of visits for meat inspection during the year ... .. 72

No. of animals inspected	- Cattle	71
	- Sheep	51
	- Pigs	43

### Meat Rejected in Slaughter-houses

1 Bovine head and tongue	- Tuberculosis	28 lbs.
1 Bovine head	- Actinomycosis	26 lbs.
1 Bovine lungs and liver	- Hydatids	21 lbs.
2 Bovine livers (parts of)	- Cirrhosis	10 lbs.
1 Pigs head	- Tuberculosis	10 lbs.
1 Pig liver and Mesentery	- Tuberculosis	4 lbs.
1 Pig liver	- Cirrhosis	3 lbs.
1 Pig heart and lungs	- Pleurisy and Pericarditis	2½ lbs.
1 Pig lung	- Congestion	1 lb.
1 Sheep carcass and offal	- Pyrexia	68 lbs.
12 Sheep livers	- Cystic	18 lbs.

### MILK AND DAIRIES.

The duties remaining with the local authority under Milk Regulations were carried out during the year.

There are no pasteurising plants in the district.

### HOP-PICKERS ACCOMMODATION

Hop-picking this year was carried out in good weather and the duration of the season was relatively short.

The condition of pickers quarters generally was fairly good.

The machine is gradually but steadily displacing the picker and it would seem that the day is not too distant when there will be no resident picker in the district.



The usual nursing facilities were provided to the hop farms in the district, by nurses employed by the County Council, District Nurses and the Salvation Army.

PARTICULARS OF OTHER SANITARY MATTERS DEALT WITH.

New Drainage Provided: (Excluding New Houses)

(a) To Sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) To Septic Tank	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of obstructed drains dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Number of defective lavatories etc. dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Number of defective water services dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Defects to Sewers remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Visits of inspection in connection with Tenbury Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	404
Visits in connection with Private Water Supplies	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Inspections - Hop-pickers Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Number of letters during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1034

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman, Members of the Council, fellow Officer and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. E. PARKINSON

Surveyor, Sanitary Inspector and  
Waterwork Engineer.

